

POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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LOCAL PROGRAMS

- ◆ Special Projects
- ◆ State Cost Share
- ◆ RIM
- ◆ Chippewa River

CONSERVATION OF WORKING LANDS

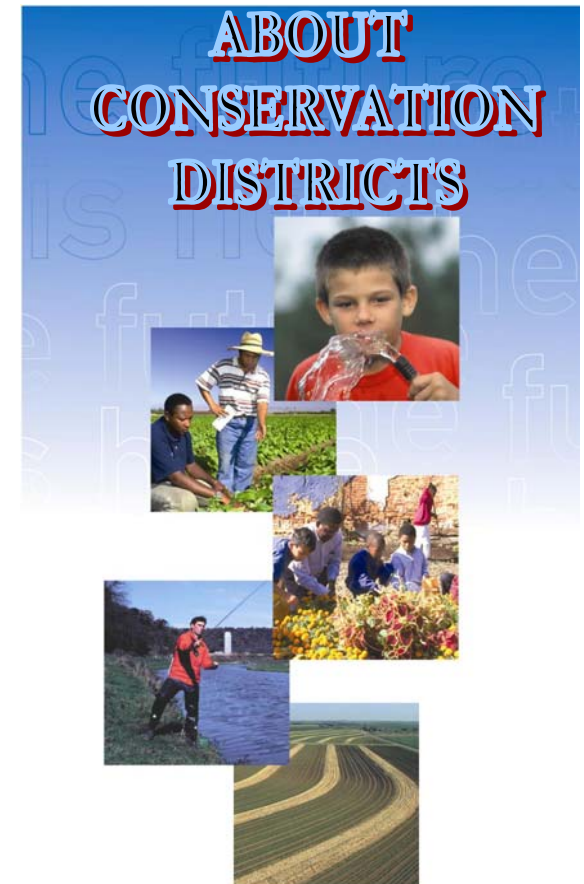
Conservation districts, along with their state and national association, are focused on conserving natural resources on America's private working lands.

ABOUT CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

In 3,000 local communities across America, conservation districts are working to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife, and related natural resources for the benefit of all. District officials contribute their time to serve the needs of 2.5 million landowners who manage nearly 98 percent of the private lands in America.

Conservation district professionals traditionally work with the farmers and ranchers that manage the bulk of our working lands. But in recent times, districts have extended their programs and services to citizens in widespread areas such as watersheds, river basins, urban areas, and economic development projects. This concept is referred to as "locally led conservation."

The 2002 Farm Bill brings an unprecedented opportunity to get more conservation on the land than ever before. Those expanded farm conservation programs outlined in this brochure, along with many local incentive programs, put conservation districts in a unique position to help America's producers maintain their productivity and profitability. And, at the same time preserve the quality of life we have all come to enjoy.




**conserving
natural resources**
for our future



The 2002 Farm Bill authorizes historic levels of funding for conservation programs – an 80-percent increase over current levels. Several new programs have been created, and many existing programs have received significant funding increases through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Pope SWCD reminds farmers and ranchers that these programs offer a great opportunity to voluntarily address conservation and environmental problems around the farm.

2002 FARM BILL PROGRAMS

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Funded at \$2 billion, this exciting program is being designed to provide tiered incentives for ongoing conservation practices on private working lands. Details are still being finalized.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

A 2.8-million-acre cap increase and funding of \$1.517 billion over current levels brings up to 39.3 million acres under CRP. A pilot Farmable Wetlands Program has been extended to all states, with a cap of one million acres.

With the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the CRP Buffer Initiative now incorporated into the CRP statute, haying and grazing on CRP land may be permitted under a conservation plan.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP gained a \$5.8 billion boost in funding over the six-year Farm Bill period, and now allows up to \$450,000 in maximum contract payments. Contracts may now be written for periods ranging from one to 10 years.

Beginning or limited-resource producers may receive up to 90 percent cost-share, significantly more than the typical 75 percent.

Sixty percent of the EQIP contracts will cover livestock-related practices, and 40 percent will cover cropland. There will no longer be a cap on large confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

A new provision establishes a national water conservation program to protect ground and surface water in all states with cost-share and incentive funds.

Agriculture Management Assistance Program (AMA)

EQIP-type programs in states traditionally underserved by Farm Bill programs get a \$50 million boost in the new Bill.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Expanded by 1.2 million acres and funded with an additional \$1.5 billion over current levels, as many as 2.275 million acres of cropped wetlands can be restored or enhanced.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

Two million acres of grassland – including 500,000 acres of native grassland tracts covering 40 acres or less – will be eligible for \$254 million in contracts. Cost share funds can cover up to 75 percent of restoration costs on most parcels, or up to 90 percent on virgin grassland. NRCS-approved conservation plans will be required;

haying and grazing may be allowed within wildlife protection guidelines.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

Extended by the current Farm Bill and funded at \$360 million, WHIP will offer contracts ranging from short-term emergency agreements to permanent easements to protect wildlife habitat.

Farmland Protection Program (FPP)

Extended through 2007 with a purse of \$597 million, FPP allows the federal government to provide up to 50 percent cost share in purchasing conservation easements to protect agricultural land from conversion to other uses. Non-profit organizations are now eligible to participate. Annually, \$15 million from FPP will fund organic farming research.

Conservation of Private Grazing Land (CPGL)

Carried out by the nation's conservation districts, this \$60-million-a-year program was brought under the umbrella of the amended Farm Bill.

Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Funding to repair, upgrade or decommission watershed impoundments built over the past 50 years is covered by a \$275 million authorization in the Farm Bill. An additional \$325 million could be added through the appropriations process.

Pope Soil and Water Conservation district prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.